

City of Rochester Face Covering Requirement – Starting July 8, 2020



1. Where is the City of Rochester requiring face covering being worn?
 - Individuals must wear face coverings in indoor, publicly-accessible spaces. There are some exceptions, including eating while at a restaurants or when seated six feet away from another person at an entertainment venue. Individuals under two years of age or those with a disability that prevents wearing a face covering are also exempt from the mandate. This does not apply to outdoor spaces, however individuals are encouraged to maintain six feet of distance and wear a face covering while outdoors.
2. Do I have to wear a face covering even if I am six feet apart?
 - Face coverings must be worn in indoor publicly accessible spaces regardless of the ability to maintain six feet of distancing. There are a few exemptions, which are outlined in the Order. The full text is available [here](#).
3. What are the boundaries of the face covering Order?
 - This is specific to Rochester, MN city limits. A map can be [found here](#).
4. Does this Order apply to private businesses?
 - This Order applies to all publicly accessible areas of a business. This includes areas like shopping areas, lobbies, and waiting areas. It does not include any area of the business that the public cannot access.
5. Does this apply to childcare/daycare facilities?
 - No, it does not apply to childcare/daycare facilities unless they have a common area open to anyone walking in off the street. It would then apply to that area.
6. Does this apply to pools?
 - No, face coverings are not required at an outdoor pool. Individuals at an indoor pool should wear a mask at all times prior to entering a pool, but masks are not required in the pool. Youth sports are also exempt, but participating adults must be six feet apart.
7. Does this apply to daycare homes?
 - No, unless there is indoor space that is accessible to the public, there is not a requirement to wear a face covering, however individuals are encouraged to maintain a six-foot distance and wear face coverings.
8. Does this apply to churches?
 - Churches are like entertainment venues: when individuals are seated, they should be six feet apart and are may remove face coverings. Face covering should be worn when entering and exiting the building.
9. How does this apply to a hotel breakfast bar (not restaurant), the pool, and the workout room (not a gym per se)?
 - This Order only applies if these areas are open to the public – if they are for guests only, then it does not apply. Guests are encouraged to keep six feet of distance and wear a face covering when possible.

10. Are realtors required to make individuals attending an open house wear a face covering?
 - If it is a public open house and multiple parties are in the home at once, face coverings are required. If it is a private showing, face coverings are not required, but encouraged. The realtor should also follow the request of the homeowner, should they request that face coverings are worn regardless of a public open house or a private showing.
11. Does the order apply to apartment buildings where residents will be required to wear face coverings in the common areas (public areas) of the community (hallways, elevators, lobby, etc.)?
 - If the areas are open to the public and residents are within six feet of others, then face coverings are required. Otherwise, no – if it is a secure building – face coverings are not required in areas only accessible to residents.
12. Why are the county, state and federal government buildings exempt?
 - Face coverings must be worn at all City of Rochester facilities. The City of Rochester's City Council does not have jurisdiction over Olmsted County, the State of Minnesota or the Federal Government.
13. Does this Order require me to wear a face covering in my own personal vehicle?
 - No, this Order does not require a face covering in an individual's own personal vehicle. A face covering must be worn while using Rochester Public Transit.
14. How does this apply to preschool and elementary school age kids?
 - As outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), children over the age of two should wear a face covering while in indoor, publicly-accessible spaces, unless that child has a qualifying exception.
15. How does an individual prove they are exempt from wearing a face covering?
 - Business and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if they claim to be exempt from the Order due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons.
16. How do I report a business who is not following this Order?
 - Individuals are encouraged to politely engage with the business management and/or owner. If that approach is unsuccessful, an individual can call the Rochester COVID-19 Hotline at 507-328-2822.
17. Will businesses that do not enforce the Order requirement have their licenses revoked?
 - Yes, a business may be subject to the administrative action of any licenses they possess with the City of Rochester should they not follow the Order.
18. How do I report an individual I see not following this Order?
 - Individuals are encouraged to politely engage with the business management and/or owner to ensure they are aware of the non-compliant person(s). If that approach is unsuccessful, an individual can call the Rochester COVID-19 Hotline at 507-328-2822.
19. Does the mask requirement violate the MN State Statute 609.735 on concealing identity?
 - The face covering would be interpreted as being for "medical treatment," under the common definition. Medical treatment means the *management and care of a patient to combat disease or disorder*. Anyone can be a patient. For example, the Minnesota Supreme Court requires masks in their public facility, without violating State law.
20. How does the mask mandate affect individuals who have a Permit to Carry?
 - This Order has no effect on conceal carry – individuals should wear a face covering as required and there will be no repercussion on conceal carry permits (per City Attorney Jason Loos).

21. Does the City of Rochester have the authority to make me wear a face covering?
- No, but the City of Rochester does have authority to require businesses require patrons wear face coverings if they choose to enter the business.
22. How will this Order be enforced?
- Any individual who fails to comply with this Order will be asked to leave by an authorized representative of the business or organization. If the individual refuses to leave, law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws or any other law the individual may be violating.
23. How long is this Order in effect?
- This Order is in effect from July 8, 2020 to September 4, 2020. If necessary, it could be extended.
24. What if I do not have a face covering?
- Masks are available for purchase at many area businesses. Some area organizations, including the City of Rochester may have face coverings available for no charge.
25. How do I properly wear a face covering?
- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
 - Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
 - Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
 - Make sure you can breathe easily
26. What type of cloth mask should I wear? Is there a certain type of fabric that is best?
- Information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about face coverings can be [found here](#).
27. Can I use a face shield instead of a fabric face covering?
- Face shields are an alternative for individuals who have a medical condition that do not allow them to wear a cloth face covering. A cloth face covering is the best option to use and the City of Rochester encourages the use of cloth face coverings when possible.
28. Why is this necessary?
- Wearing a face covering will help protect others in case you are infected but do not have symptoms.
 - Medical and scientific evidence supports the use of face coverings to reduce the community spread of COVID-19. Reduced community spread helps keep businesses open, which supports our local economy.
29. Where can I find up to date numbers regarding COVID-19 in Olmsted County
- Information can be accessed via the Olmsted County [website](#).
30. Are masks required by walkers/bikers/skaters on public paths?
- No, the face covering Order does not apply to outdoor spaces. However, we encouraged individuals to maintain a six foot distance and use face coverings as these practices slow the spread of COVID-19.
31. I have more questions, who can I contact?
- Individuals are welcome to contact the City of Rochester COVID-19 Hotline at 507-328-2822. The COVID-19 Hotline is staffed Monday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.